

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 495

By Stewart

A RESOLUTION to recognize Raymond Council on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Council is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty-three years as Principal of Cowan Elementary School, Mr. Council will be taking a much deserved retirement at the conclusion of the school year; and

WHEREAS, a native of Troy, Mr. Council was born on March 16, 1948, to William and Georgia Council; and

WHEREAS, when he was four and one half years old, his family relocated to Pontiac, Michigan, and he attended school there, graduating from Pontiac Central High School and going on to earn a degree from Eastern Michigan University; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Raymond Council and his wife, Rebecca Troy Council, moved back to Tennessee, where Mr. Council began his teaching career at Grundy County High School; and

WHEREAS, after teaching at Grundy County High School, Mr. Council accepted a teaching position at South Middle School and then Cowan Elementary School in Franklin County; he has served with distinction as the Principal of Cowan Elementary School since 1976; and

WHEREAS, in addition to standing as Principal, Raymond Council has coached basketball, was President of the Franklin County Education Association, and has served as a contract negotiator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Council is an active and important part of his community and his profession and participates in numerous worthy organizations and entities, including the Lions

Club and the Zoning Board for the City of Cowan, and lending his skills as an Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language teacher; and

WHEREAS, a leader in education and in a variety of civic and community organizations, Mr. Council has given of his time and many talents as President of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Cowan Christmas Parade for twelve years, Grand Marshall of the parade for one year, Chairman of the Franklin County Election Commission for several years, and Chairman of the Cowan Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, for his astute civic leadership and many professional accomplishments, Mr. Council was named one of the "Outstanding Young Men in America" in 1981; was named Cowan Lions Club "Lion of the Year" for 1990-1991; was later named "Lion of the Decade"; and was a Melvin Jones Fellow for 1993-1994; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Council was further honored in 1993-1994, when he was recognized for humanitarian services to the Lions Club Foundation; for 1998-1999, he was honored for "Hands-On School Associates Partnership for School Improvement"; and

WHEREAS, widely revered by the people of Franklin County, Mr. Council was named "Principal of the Year" for Franklin County in both 2007 and 2009; his school was honored at the State Capitol in 2008 and 2009 for being among the top elementary schools in TCAP test scores; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Council is a faithful and dynamic member of the Cowan Fellowship Church, where he has served as a Sunday school teacher, a choir member, the Youth Director, and Church Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, his many professional merits aside, Mr. Council is thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Becky, and he enjoys every moment he gets to spend with his sons and their wives, Troy and Stephanie Council and Mark and Tonya Council; and

WHEREAS, he is the incredibly proud grandfather of one granddaughter, Katlyn, who is the light of his life; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Council exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, faculty, and students alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Raymond Council our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.